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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/614,947	07/12/2000	Russell A. Brierley	02655-046005	2510

7590

02/28/2002

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EXAMINER

SAOUD, CHRISTINE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1647

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/614,947

Applicant(s)
BRIERLY et al.

Examiner
Christine Saoud

Art Unit
1647



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 18, 2001
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 6
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claim 1 has been amended and claims 22-26 have been added as requested in the amendment of paper #6, filed 18 December 2001. Claims 1-26 are pending in the instant application.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Any objection or rejection of record which is not expressly repeated in this action has been overcome by Applicant's response and withdrawn.
4. Applicant's arguments filed 18 December 2001 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

Priority

5. Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 as follows:

An application in which the benefits of an earlier application are desired must contain a specific reference to the prior application(s) in the first sentence of the specification (37 CFR 1.78).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. Claims 1-21 stand rejected and newly submitted claims 22-26 are under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention for the reasons of record and for those reasons provided below.

Claim 1 recites language of "a substantial amount" in step (b), "a significant proportion" in steps (f) , (l), (l) and (m), "a substantial proportion" in step (l). Newly submitted claim 22 recites "in sufficient amounts and under conditions that allow". The skilled artisan is not able to determine the metes and bounds of the claims because these phrases are vague and indefinite and those conditions which are intended by the claims are not provided. There is no support or guidance in the specification to allow the skilled artisan to determine what would constitute "a substantial amount", "a significant proportion", "a substantial proportion", or "sufficient amounts", and therefore the claim is indefinite. Claims 2-21 and 23-26 are rejected because they depend on claim 1, and therefore are also indefinite.

Applicant argues that "substantial" and "significant" have meaning according to the dictionary. However, the meanings which are attributed to these terms of degree which have no definite range or amounts. They are terms (i.e. which are defined as "considerable" and "notable") which have no set amount and wherein said amount can vary according to what one of ordinary skill in the art would deem "considerable" and "notable". One of ordinary skill in the art cannot determine what subject matter is or is not within the scope of the claims based on these

terms because the terms provide for no amounts and such amounts cannot be determined from the specification or the claims.

7. Claims 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted steps are: isolation of the IGF-I polypeptide from the yeast cell medium, addition of the denaturing agent, separation of the non-denatured from the denatured, separation steps for removing the folded IGF-I from the unfolded IGF-I, etc. In addition, the claims fail to recite those concentrations of the buffer components which would be necessary to achieve the result of the method, which is authentic, properly folded IGF-I. The dependent claims include buffer concentrations which appear to be required for the practice of the method, and could be incorporated into the independent claim, however, the independent claim 22 is still missing the method steps required for achieving the result of the method.

Double Patenting

8. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321© may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

9. Claims 1-21 and newly submitted claims 22-26 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-21 of U. S. Patent No. 5,650,496 and 1-25 of U.S. Patent No. 6,207,806 since the claims, if allowed, would improperly extend the "right to exclude" already granted in the patent for the reasons of record as applied to claims 1-21 in paper #5 and for those provided below.

The subject matter claimed in the instant application is fully disclosed in '496 and '806 and is covered by the patents since the patents and the application are claiming common subject matter, as follows: methods of isolating correctly folded IGF-I. The instant claims do not include the dilute, weak acid and single ionic salt of claim 1 in '496, step (b) of the patent, but the instant claims encompass this subject matter because of the language of "comprising". The instant claims appear to be essentially the same as the claims of '806, and encompass the same subject matter because of the language of "comprising". Newly submitted claims 22-26 are generic to the claims of '496 and '806, and therefore, are anticipated by the claims in these patents.

Furthermore, there is no apparent reason why applicant was prevented from presenting claims corresponding to those of the instant application during prosecution of the application which matured into a patent. See *In re Schneller*, 397 F.2d 350, 158 USPQ 210 (CCPA 1968). See also MPEP § 804.

Applicant asserts that the instant claims are not directed to the same invention as that of patents '496 or '806. Applicant argues that statutory double patenting is not present. However, the rejection above is one of a nonstatutory double patenting rejection, where the claims are not

identical, but the claims, if allowed, would improperly extend the "right to exclude" already granted in the patent. Therefore, this rejection is maintained for the reasons of record.

Conclusion

10. No claim is allowed.

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Christine J. Saoud, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (703) 305-7519. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7AM to 3PM. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Gary Kunz, can be reached on (703) 308-4623.

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technology Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1 (CM1). The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.6(d) and 1.8). NOTE: If Applicant *does* submit a paper by fax, the original signed copy should be retained by Applicant or Applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers.

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Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (703) 872-9306. If this number is out of service, please call the Group receptionist for an alternate number. Official papers filed After Final rejection filed by fax should be directed to (703) 872-9307.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

CHRISTINE J. SAUD
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Christine J. Saud